(b) the action to ensure their presence in rural areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Encouragement to Minority-focused Banks

797. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether any steps are being taken to encourage Minority-focused Banks by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI);

(b)if so, the details of steps taken in the last six months to call a meeting of Minority-oriented Banks to stabilize and expand their work;

(c) the measures proposed to assist Minority-centred Banks;

(d)the funds earmarked for this purpose in 2007-08; and

(e) the specific steps on Micro-finance by banks for minority community taken by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) in 2007-08?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) to (e) RBI has already issued a Revised Master Circular on Credit Facilities to Minority Communities dated 05.07.2007 which is available at RBI website *(www.rbi.org.in).* Minority Communities have also been included in the category of 'Weaker Section' for availing credit within the Priority Sector Advances.

Under the Prime Minister's New 15-Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities. Government has issued instructions to all Public Sector Banks to increase the flow of credit to Minority Communities from the existing level of 9% to 15% over the next three years. 121 Minority Concentrated Districts have also been identified to enhance banking facilities and extend financial services to members of Minority Communities. Banks have been advised to set up Special Cells headed by a Nodal Officer to monitor such programmes.

NABARD and SIDBI have been advised to increase their coverage in public programmes specially for micro finance and women. No separate budget provision has been earmarked by the Government as resources are to be garnered by the banks themselves on the basis of their own road map and action plans.

Nizam Trusts

798. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact Government has suggested that Nizam Trust properties be taken over directly by Government;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for proposals to abolish the Nizam Trusts of Hvderabad:

(c) the number of trustees on the various trusts of the Nizam of Hyderabad nominated by Government;

(d) whether there is an alternate proposal to increase the number of trustees nominated by the Government on the diverse Nizam Trust: and

(e) if so, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) No Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Government has one trustee each on 4 trusts of the Nizam of Hyderabad.

(d) No.

(e) Does not arise.

Directives of Planning Commission on economic upliftments of SCs/STs

799. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the Planning Commission's directive to the State Governments to spend more on Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs) so that weaker sections get the full benefits of Central Schemes and Flagship Programmes in proportion to their population;

(b) if so, what would be the financial implications under budget sub-head especially created by the Planning Commission;

(c) whether the entitled weaker sections under this category have been identified; and

(d) if so, whether consultations at political and administrative levels have been held to iron out differences, if any, so that some of the so called denied groups may not go to courts?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI PAWAN KUMAR BANSAL): (a) As per information received from Planning Commission, it is observed that they circulated certain guidelines to State and UTs in October, 2005 for the formulation of a Special Component Plan (SCP) for SCs and Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) for Scheduled Tribes according to which States and UTs are required to earmark funds in proportion to the SC/ST population for their socio-economic development. A similar directive issued by Planning Commission to the Central Ministries in December, 2006.

(b)No additional financial implications of these guidelines are likely as only a percentage of the existing allocation of funds is to be earmarked by States/UTs/Central Ministries for SCP and TSP. As per Planning Commission, the CGA has since created Budget Head/Sub-head of 789 and 796 for SCs and STs respectively for making the funds for SCP and TSP non-drvertible.

(c) As per information received from Planning Commission, the percentage of SC and ST population below the poverty line has been identified.

(d) A Central Tripartite Committee under the Chairmanship of Member in charge of Backward Classes in Planning Commission meets periodically to discuss the planning, implementation and monitoring of SCSP and TSP Schemes/ Programmes of States/UTs and Central Ministries/Departments so as to guide them for effective implementation of these programmes.

Structural reforms in industrial and trade policies

800. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the observations made in February, 2007 by Dr. C. Rangarajan, Chairman, Economic Advisory Council to Hon'be Prime Minister "that structural reforms in areas such as industrial and trade policy could succeed only if resources were redeployed"